

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A bulb for providing light, said bulb comprising: a central portion that emits light of lesser intensity than distal portions, wherein said bulb possesses a greater density of phosphorescent material at distal portions of said bulb than at said central portion.

21. (Previously Presented) A system for capturing an image by an optical detector, said system comprising:

an illumination system to illuminate a scan region, wherein the illumination system includes a bulb that emits light of greater intensity near its extremities than at its center, and wherein the illumination system comprises a bulb that possesses a greater density of phosphorescent material at distal portions of said bulb than at a central portion of said bulb; and

an optical reduction component to reduce image light for receipt by said optical detector.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the diameter of the bulb near its ends is wider than the diameter of the bulb at its center.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the diameter of the bulb increases gradually moving away from the bulb's center and wherein the diameter of the bulb increases more rapidly near the bulb's ends.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21 wherein the system is a device selected from the list of:

scanner;

copier; and

fax.